

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 PM-04 DODE-00 EB-07 NRC-05

NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 /038 W

----- 002715

P R 021530Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8367

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1258

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, BC

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL PERMIT TO IMPORT FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION INTO BOTSWANA

REF: A) GABORONE 1245, B) STATE 127740

1. HEAD OF BOTSWANA'S CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT, D. HARRIS, CALLED ON DCM JULY 2 TO INFORM HIM OF NEW INFORMATION REGARDING THE ILLEGAL PERMIT TO IMPORT ARMS AND AMMUNITION DISCUSSED REFTELS. HARRIS BROUGHT WITH HIM EXAMPLES OF THE AUTHENTIC FORM FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS TO IMPORT AMMUNITION (COPY WILL BE PROVIDED TO

AF/S) AND RECORD COPIES OF RECENT PERMITS ISSUED IN MAUN SHOWING THE MAUN DISTRICT STAMP. ACCORDING TO HARRIS, THE FORM INVOLVED IN THE CASE IS A CLEVER COUNTERFEIT, IT IS HEADED WITH "REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA" WHILE THE AUTHENTIC FORM, PRINTED PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE, STILL READS "BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE", WITH "BOTSWANA OVERSTAMPED", THE MAUN DISTRICT STAMP IS APPROXIMATELY ONE-FOURTH LARGER THAN THE AUTHENTIC STAMP. THE SIGNATURE OF DISTRICT ASSISTANT P. P. MATHEATAU REPEAT MATHEATAU IS A FORGERY. HARRIS PROVIDED AN EXAMPLE OF HIS TRUE SIGNATURE WHICH WAS SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM SIGNATURE ON THE PERMIT.

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2. HARRIS IS FAMILIAR WITH CORDING (WHO SIGNED THE LETTRS TO

UNIVERSAL ON BEHALF OF ROSENTHAL (PTY.) LTD.) AND CONSIDERS THAT HE IS LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED IN THE FRAUD. HARRIS CONSIDERS THE SIGNATURE APPEARING ON THE TWO LETTERS TO BE CORDING'S.

3. HARRIS SAID THAT HE INTENDS TO PURSUE HIS INVESTIGATION QUIETLY. HE WILL TRAVEL TO CHARLES HILL STORE IN GHANZI TO ATTEMPT CONFIRM POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT BY ITS OWNER. HE DOES NOT INTEND TO APPROACH SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE AT THIS TIME BECAUSE HE CONSIDERS IT POSSIBLE THAT THERE MAY BE COLLUSION WITH THE ARMS PURCHASERS. HE WILL ATTEMPT TO INTERROGATE CORDING IF HE ENTERS THE COUNTRY.

4. HARRIS ASKED FOR FURTHER USG COOPERATION IN THE MATTER. HE WOULD PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE ANY INDICATION AVAILABLE OF THE EXTENT OF THE USE OF THE COUNTERFEIT BOTSWANA IMPORT PERMIT. HE ASKED FOR EXAMPLE IF US EXPORT CONTROLS WOULD COVER SMALL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING SPORTING WEAPONS. IF NOT, HE IS CONCERNED THAT OTHER COPIES OF THIS COUNTERFEIT FORM MAY HAVE BEEN USED FOR SMALLER ILLEGAL PURCHASES.

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Message Attributes

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